

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~determining~~ selecting a carrier for shipment of a package from an origin to a destination based on carrier specific delivery commitment information ~~data for the shipment of a package from an origin to a destination by a carrier, comprising the steps of:~~

(a) ~~determining the destination area for the package based upon its intended destination,~~

(b) ~~determining the~~ selecting a service level supported by the carrier for delivery of the package from the origin to the destination area,

(c) selecting ~~determining~~ a desired class of service for delivery of the a package ~~with respect to its delivery by the carrier,~~

(d) based upon the selected ~~determined~~ class of service for the package, determining a service column index value,

(e) based upon the service level supported by the carrier for delivery of the package from the origin to the destination area and the determined service column index value ~~class of service desired~~, locating a specific cell in a delivery commitment matrix comprised of a plurality of cells, wherein each cell contains the delivery commitment information for that carrier for the selected ~~specified~~ service level and selected class of service desired, and

(f) reading said delivery commitment information for that carrier from ~~for the specific specified cell,~~

selecting the carrier for shipment of the package if the delivery commitment information for that carrier from the specific cell corresponds to a desired delivery commitment for shipment of the package,

verifying said delivery commitment information relative to a real time clock to

produce verified delivery commitment information,

if said verified delivery commitment information is at a time later than a pre-determined cut-off time, posting a notification of said later time, and

determining whether or not said selected carrier and/or said selected service level is to be maintained or whether an alternative carrier and/or alternative service level is to be selected.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The A method of for determining carrier specific commitment data as defined in~~ claim 1, wherein the service column index value values and class of service services are maintained in a token map.

3. Canceled.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The A method of for determining carrier specific commitment data as defined in~~ claim 2, wherein service levels supported by a carrier are maintained in a destination map, wherein for each destination ~~area~~ supported by the carrier, information is stored in a location of the destination map related to the service level supported by the carrier for that destination ~~area~~.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The A method of for determining carrier specific commitment data as defined in~~ claim 4, wherein the destination map has a location for each postal ZIP code and wherein a code is stored in ~~each such~~ the location for each postal ZIP code.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The A method of for determining carrier specific commitment data as defined in~~ claim 5, wherein a null code is stored in each destination map postal ZIP code location which is not supported by the carrier.

7-10. Canceled.

11. (Currently Amended) A system for selecting a carrier for shipment of a package from an origin to a destination based on determining carrier specific commitment data ~~for the shipment of a package from an origin to a destination by a carrier~~, comprising:

~~(a) means for determining the destination area for the package based upon its intended destination,~~

~~(b) means for selecting a ~~determining the~~ service level supported by the carrier for delivery of the package from the origin to the destination area,~~

~~(c) means for selecting ~~determining a~~ desired class of service for delivery of thea package with respect to its delivery by the carrier,~~

~~(d) means, based upon the determined class of service for the package, for determining a service column index value based upon the selected class of service for the package,~~

~~(e) means, based upon the service level supported by the carrier, for delivery of the package from the origin to the destination area and the determined service column index value ~~class of service desired,~~ for locating a specific cell in a delivery commitment matrix comprised of a plurality of cells, wherein each cell contains the delivery commitment information for that carrier for the selected specified service level and selected class of service desired, and~~

~~(f) means for reading said delivery commitment information for that carrier from ~~for the~~ specific specified cell,~~

~~means for selecting the carrier for shipment of the package if the delivery commitment information for that carrier from the specific cell corresponds to a desired delivery commitment for shipment of the package,~~

~~a real time clock to verify said delivery commitment information to produce verified delivery commitment information, and~~

~~means for posting a notification of said later time and determining whether or not said selected carrier and/or said selected service level is to be maintained or whether an alternative carrier and/or alternative service level is to be selected if said~~

verified delivery commitment information is at a time later than a pre-determined cut-off time.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The A system of for determining carrier specific commitment data as defined in~~ claim 11, wherein the service column index value values and class of service services are maintained in a token map.

13. Canceled.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~The A system of for determining carrier specific commitment data as defined in~~ claim 12, wherein service levels supported by a carrier are maintained in a destination map, wherein for each destination area supported by the carrier, information is stored in a location of the destination map related to the service level supported by the carrier for that destination-area.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The A system of for determining carrier specific commitment data as defined in~~ claim 14, wherein the destination map has a location for each postal ZIP code and wherein a code is stored in ~~each such~~ the location for each postal ZIP code.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of A method for determining carrier specific commitment data as defined in~~ claim 15, wherein a null code is stored in each destination map postal ZIP code location which is not supported by the carrier.

17-20. Canceled.